

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Iowa Statewide Program
Minimum Required Written Standards for Providing Assistance
Updated March 2014

From the ESG Interim Regulations, 576.400(e)(2):

"If the recipient is a state: (i) The recipient must establish and consistently apply, or require that its subrecipients establish and consistently apply, written standards for providing ESG assistance. If the written standards are established by the subrecipients, the recipient may require these written standards to be... Established by each subrecipient and applied consistently within the subrecipient's program.... (3) At a minimum these written standards must include..."

("Recipient" refers to the Iowa Finance Authority/State of Iowa; "subrecipients" refers to the organizations providing services.)

For Agencies providing Street Outreach:

- 1) Providing Essential Services.** Describe the standards for targeting and providing essential services related to street outreach.

For Agencies providing Emergency Shelter:

- 1) Evaluating Eligibility for Assistance.** Describe the standard policies and procedures for evaluating individuals' and families' eligibility for assistance under ESG. Ensure these standards are consistent with the definitions of homeless and at-risk of homelessness, and recordkeeping requirements.
- 2) Coordination among Service Providers.** Describe the policies and procedures for coordination among emergency shelter providers, essential service providers, homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing assistance providers, other homeless assistance providers, and mainstream service and housing providers. (Describe for your community.)
- 3) Determining Admission, Diversion, Referral and Discharge.** Describe the policies and procedures for admission, diversion, referral, and discharge by emergency shelters assisted under ESG, including standards regarding length of stay, if any, and safeguards to meet the safety and shelter needs of special populations, e.g., victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking; and individuals and families who have the highest barriers to housing and are likely to be homeless the longest.
- 4) Assessing, Prioritizing, and Reassessing Needs for Essential Services Related to Emergency Shelter.** Describe the policies and procedures for assessing, prioritizing, and reassessing individuals' and families' needs for essential services related to emergency shelter.

For Agencies doing Homelessness Prevention and/or Rapid Rehousing:

- 1) **Evaluating Eligibility for Assistance.** Describe the standard policies and procedures for evaluating individuals' and families' eligibility for assistance under ESG. Ensure these standards are consistent with the definitions of homeless and at-risk of homelessness, and recordkeeping requirements.
- 2) **Coordination among Service Providers.** Describe the policies and procedures for coordination among emergency shelter providers, essential service providers, homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing assistance providers, other homeless assistance providers, and mainstream service and housing providers. (Describe for your community.)
- 3) **Prioritizing Assistance.** Describe the policies and procedures for determining and prioritizing which eligible families and individuals will receive homelessness prevention assistance and which eligible families and individuals will receive rapid rehousing assistance.
- 4) **Determining Client Share of Costs.** Describe the standards for determining the share of rent and utilities costs that each program participant must pay, if any, while receiving homelessness prevention or rapid rehousing assistance.
- 5) **Determining Length of Rental Assistance.** Describe the standards for determining how long a particular program participant will be provided with rental assistance and whether and how the amount of that assistance will be adjusted over time.
- 6) **Determining Type, Amount, and Duration of Housing Stabilization and/or Relocation Services.** Describe the standards for determining the type, amount, and duration of housing stabilization and/or relocation services to provide a program participant, including the limits, if any, on the homelessness prevention or rapid rehousing assistance that each program participant may receive, such as the maximum amount of assistance, maximum number of months the program participant receives assistance, or the maximum number of times the program participant may receive assistance.